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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 142 of the provisional agenda*
EXPLOITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AS A WEAPON IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT AND THE TAKING OF PRACTICAL MEASURES TO PREVENT SUCH EXPLOITATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 12 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 13 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/1035-S/22787), I wish to state that, while Iraq affirms its willingness to do everything to protect the environment and natural resources and not to exploit them as a weapon in times of armed conflict, it is to be regretted that the above-mentioned letter disregards the appalling environmental damage caused by the coalition forces in Kuwait and Iraq.

In my country this damage included water purification stations and related chemical facilities, drainage and sewage stations and pipelines, oil refineries, electric power stations and distribution networks and caused untreated effluent to pour into the streets of towns and led to heavy contamination of rivers by sewage, the piling up of garbage, environmental damage to fields and orchards and a serious deterioration in public health. I wish to refer here to paragraphs 8 and 21 of the report dated 20 March 1991 which was submitted to you by the mission led by Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management (S/22366) and to paragraphs 15 and 16 of the summary of the main conclusions and recommendations contained in a report to you dated 15 July 1991 on

* A/46/150.

humanitarian needs in Iraq prepared by the mission led by Sadruddin Aga Khan (S/22799). In addition to this damage, allied aircraft dropped thousands of tons of explosives and bombs on towns and rural areas, roads and bridges, cultivated fields and industrial installations, inflicting serious damage on the environment.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 142 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 19 of the provisional agenda*
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 12 August 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement made by the spokesman of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria on 11 August 1991, and to request that you circulate the text of this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 19 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amar BENDJAMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/150.

Annex

Statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria on 11 August 1991

Following the resumption of military operations in Western Sahara, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the following statement:

"Algeria has noted with deep regret the recent resumption of military operations in Western Sahara after a constructive truce that had been conducive to progress in the search for peace. Coming after the Security Council's adoption of a plan for the organization of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and on the eve of the entry into force - on 6 September 1991 - of a cease-fire accepted by the two parties to the conflict, the resurgence of the fratricidal confrontation is likely to lead to a deterioration of the climate of calm and security indispensable for achieving peace.

"Algeria, which has joined in the positive response to the adoption of Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991 on Western Sahara, shares the Secretary-General's profound concern at these dangerous developments and is fully complying with his appeal to avoid any action that could jeopardize the implementation of the United Nations plan for Western Sahara. Algeria urgently appeals that the highest degree of responsibility be exercised at this decisive stage in the evolution of the region towards a future of peace, harmony and cooperation in the effort to achieve Maghreb unity.

"Reiterating its full support for the peace-making efforts with which he has been charged in Western Sahara, Algeria encourages the Secretary-General to make every effort to prevent any military escalation and to ensure the implementation of the Security Council's settlement plan in keeping with the established time-table."